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Sports

WEDNESDAY • FEBRUARY 28, 2018

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Fourth and Long



David Friedman

NCAA athletics has problem

In case you haven't noticed, college athletics has a problem.

The issue of players getting money from agents and coaches isn't a new one, it's been happening for a while. It's been happening for so long in fact that the problem isn't really players getting money, that's the reality and the past four decades have proven there is little the NCAA can or will do to stop it.

The real problem is the lack of a solution and if Toby Zeigler has taught me nothing else, it's to not come with "half a thing". This column isn't about the question of "what should they do," this column is about the answer.

I have listened to and read hundreds of possible solutions, some of them from smart people. It doesn't take long to recognize that there is no perfect answer. There is no idea I have heard that would stop people from manipulating the system. If there is money to be made off these young athletes, people will find a way to do it.

Again, nobody knows this more than the NCAA themselves. They have been doing it better than anyone else for a long time. While I believe there is no perfect answer, I think there are things that can be done to reduce the scope of the issue.

First I have to ask myself, what do college athletes want? In regards to their wants and needs, I don't think the student athlete is much different than the student. They should want a good education. They do want to not worry about money. They do not want to be a burden on their friends and family.

Let's "keep it 100", college students (ath-

See **FOURTH**, B6

BACA JV girls 2nd in state

Staff Reports

Second in the state. The Bethel Assembly Christian Academy junior varsity girls basketball team won two of three games to finish second in the North Carolina Christian Athletic Conference Tournament recently.

The Eagles (23-5 overall) went into the event as the No. 1 seed in the North Division.

Bethel opened the tournament with a 40-9 victory over Gramercy Christian.

A 19-0 lead after the first quarter sent the Eagles on their way to the win.

Eliana Bazemore poured in 19 points while Gracie Simmons added nine for the Eagles. Bazemore was 9-for-16 from the field (56 percent).

In the state semifinals,

See **BETHEL**, B6



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Members of the Bethel Assembly Christian Academy junior varsity girls basketball team are (front row, from left) Hannah Price, Sarah Conner, Gracie Simmons, Haley Northcott, Sheree Harrell and Maddie Knowles; (second row) Alexis Fairless, Coleen Askew, Eliana Bazemore, Abbey Minton, Reagan Davis and Haven Hoggard. Not pictured is Kelli Grace Bunch.

Bertie boys fall to Jags

BY ZACHARY MORGAN II
Bertie Ledger-Advance

FARMVILLE—Bertie Bertie men's basketball was on the road Feb. 20 at Farmville Central High School to open the N.C. High School Athletic Association 2A state playoffs.

Playing their hearts out in the game, the Falcons came up just a bit short of their goal, losing to the Jaguars 70-55.

The Falcons started slowly, missing their first three shots from the field, but their tough defense on the other end of the floor was their saving grace.

Down just 4-0, a free throw from Joshua Burden put them on the board for the first time in the game, which was then followed up by a long-range three-ball from Quatravis Rid-

dick to even things, 4-4. Sophomore Maurice Hayes gave Bertie the lead, 6-4, soon after on the next trip down the floor, tying the game for the second time, 6-6. Riddick put the Falcons on top once more, 8-6, with just over five minutes on the first quarter clock with a very quick score in the lane. Turnovers began to plague the Falcons as the Farmville Central defense started to pick up during the remainder of the quarter. It gave way to Farmville Central being able to put together a 10-4 run that closed the first with the Falcons trailing 19-8.

Although they fell behind by as much as 18 points in the first half (38-20) the Falcons kept coming, displaying the fight they have been

See **BERTIE**, B6



ZACHARY MORGAN II / Bertie Ledger-Advance

Bertie's Joshua Burden moves up court with the ball during the Falcons' first-round Class 2A state basketball playoff game last week in Farmville.

Spring sports get underway this week

JIM GREEN
Bertie Ledger-Advance

The 2017-18 high school basketball seasons are over for Bertie, Lawrence Academy and Bethel Assembly Christian School.

Now, it is time for spring sports.

This week, several teams will begin their respective seasons, while others will begin in the days to follow.

Here is a synopsis of the local teams and their first games/matches/track meets.

• Bertie varsity baseball: The Falcons will

play host to Riverside at 5 p.m. on Wednesday, Feb. 28, will travel to John A. Holmes (Edenton) for a 6:30 p.m. game on Friday, March 2, entertain Roanoke Rapids at 5 p.m. on Monday, March 5 and will play Holmes at home at 5 p.m. on Tuesday, March

6. • Bertie softball: The Lady Falcons will play at Riverside at 4:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Feb. 28, will travel to John A. Holmes (Edenton) for a 6 p.m. game on Friday, March 2, entertain Roanoke Rapids at 4 p.m. on Monday, March 5

and will play Holmes at home at 4 p.m. on Tuesday, March 6.

• Bertie track: The Falcons begin their season at 4 p.m. on Wednesday, Feb. 28 at John A. Holmes (Edenton). Bertie has no home meets; all

See **SPRING**, B6

Bertie Ledger-Advance congratulates this week's Athlete of the Week.

Athlete of the week

LA Basketball Jason Guo



Bertie
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